Solid Waste

⊕EPA

Inventory of Open Dumps

INVENTORY OF OPEN DUMPS APRIL, 1982

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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INVENTORY OF OPEN DUMPS

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA or the Act) provides for publication of an inventory of open dumps. The Act defines "open dumps" as facilities which do not comply with EPA's "Criteria for Classification of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities and Practices". (40, CFR 257).

EPA has provided funds to State solid waste management agencies to evaluate disposal facilities against the Criteria. Through such evaluations the States have been able to identify facilities which do not comply with the Criteria and are, therefore, "open dumps". The facility evaluations leading to publication of the inventory were conducted by State agencies as part of their effort to develop and implement State solid waste management plans in accordance with the Act.

STRUCTURE OF SUBTITLE D PLANNING PROGRAM

Subtitle D.of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA or the Act) established a voluntary program through which participating States received Federal financial support to develop and implement solid waste management plans. EPA's role in the program has included publishing guidelines for States to follow in developing their plans, providing funds for the States, and approving those State plans which meet the requirements of the Act.

On July 31, 1979, EPA published "Guidelines for Development and Implementation of State Solid Waste Management Plans" (40 CFR 256, 44 FR 45066-45086). The Guidelines are based on Section 4003 of the Act, which lists the minimum requirements with which State plans must comply. Section 4007 of the Act provides for EPA approval of State plans meeting the requirements.

Role of the Inventory

One requirement listed in the Act and addressed in the Guidelines is that "the plan shall provide for the closing or upgrading of all existing open dumps within the State ..." To aid the States in satisfying this requirement, EPA has funded State efforts to identify open dumps so that they can plan to provide for their closure or upgrading. In furtherance of this planning effort, the Act requires that EPA publish an inventory of open dumps. Publication of the inventory will serve to inform the Congress and the public of those facilities which the States have found to be open dumps.

Classification Criteria

For purposes of State planning and the inventory, the Act defines the term "open dump" to mean "... any facility or site where solid waste is disposed of which is not a sanitary landfill which meets the criteria promulgated under Section 4004 and which is not a facility for disposal of hazardous waste." Thus, any facility which fails to comply with any one element of the Criteria is an open dump.

OPEN DUMPING

In addition to establishing a mechanism whereby States, with EPA assistance, provide control over <u>facilities</u> which are found to be open dumps, RCRA prohibits the <u>practice</u> of open dumping of solid waste as a matter of Federal law.

The Federal prohibition may be enforced in Federal District Court through the citizen suit provisions in Section 7002 of RCRA. The Act does not give EPA authority to take legal action against parties that may violate the open dumping prohibition. Whether specific acts of specific individuals constitute the prohibited practice is a matter for the Federal courts to determine in the context of particular cases after de novo review of the facts in each case. In reviewing a case de novo, the court is not bound by the State's determination that a facility is an open dump. Rather, the court will make its own finding of fact and rule accordingly.

The open dumping prohibition is a provision of Federal law which stands on its own, separate from the State planning program. The inventory of open dumps is a publication of State findings from State planning efforts to satisfy the requirement of Section 4003 of the Act. The inclusion of a facility in the list of open dumps is not an administrative determination by EPA that any particular parties are engaging in the prohibited act of open dumping.

A determination for purposes of the open dump inventory need not precede on open dumping suit. However, before the results of the inventory may be used to support a legal determination that open dumping has occurred, the court would have to determine that the classification was a correct application of the criteria and that the defendant was responsible for actions violating the criteria. The court would be obliged to review the sufficiency of the State's classification of a facility and not simply defer to the State's decision.

DESCRIPTION OF INVENTORY

The first installment of the inventory was published on May 29, 1981 (46 FR 29064-29149). It reflected the initial efforts of the States in evaluating a portion of that total universe of facilities and represented a fraction of the total number of open dumps likely to exist. This second publication of the inventory reflects subsequent efforts of the States in evaluating facilities during fiscal year 1981. Those facilities found to be open dumps were added to the initial list, and facilities found no longer to be open dumps were deleted.

Actions on Facilities

Because the inventory lists facilities which the States have found to pose a reasonable probability of adverse effects on health or the environment, participating States will be planning for the closure or upgrading of these facilities pursuant to State authority. Specific actions may vary, including issuance of a State administrative order or the gathering of additional data. In some cases, States already have placed listed open dumps on compliance schedules for closure or upgrading prior to publication of this list.

All such actions are to be taken under State law and through State regulatory and administrative procedures. Interested parties may wish to contact the State solid waste management agencies (Appendix II) concerning the current status of any of these open dumps and the responsibilities the agencies have under State law.

State Approaches

EPA's Planning Guidelines require the plans of participating States to provide for an orderly time-phasing of the evaluation of disposal facilities to determine which facilities are open dumps. Thus, there is considerable flexibility for the States to set priorities for evaluating facilities. The establishment of these priorities is part of the State plans subject to the public participation provisions of 40 CFR 256.60.

The States have taken differing approaches in ranking facilities for evaluation and in conducting evaluations. For example, where States already had extensive data on hand, they could more easily rank their facilities for evaluation or make noncompliance determinations. Otherwise, resources had to be expended in locating facilities and gathering information, and fewer determinations would be likely to be made over the year.

For this second installment of the inventory, most participating States provided the Agency with brief descriptions of actions

and approaches they have taken in evaluating facilities. These descriptions are included Appendix III. Further information may be obtained from the State agency personnel listed in Appendix II.

INVENTORY OF OPEN DUMPS

INFORMATION FORMAT

BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE INFORMATION FORMAT USED IN THIS REPORT AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION ITEMS

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2. COL	2. COUNTY NAME (IF APPLICABLE)												
3. CIT	3. CITY NAME (IF APPLICABLE)												
4. FAC	FACILITY NAME												
5. FAC	FACILITY LOCATION												
6. COC	6. COORDINATES (LATITUDE-LONGITUDE) OR SURVEY GRID DESCRIPTION (RANGE-TOWNSHIP-SECTION)	3VEY GRID DESCRIPTION	(RAN	IGE-TO	WNSH	IP-SEC	TION	_					
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	01 = FLOOD PLAINS												
	02 = ENDANGERED SPECIES												
	03 = SURFACE WATER												
	04 = GROUND WATER												
	05 - APPLICATION TO FOOD-CHAIN CROPLAND												
	06 = DISEASE												
	07 = AIR												

10 = BIRD/AIRCRAFT HAZARD 11 = ACCESS

08 = GASES 09 = FIRES

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